

Professional legal information, services, and education

January 2022

I GOT YOU BABE?

By <u>Jack Greiner</u>, Graydon

There is a **battle afoot be**tween Sonny Bono's widow and Sonny's ex-wife **Cher.** And ironically, it's a fight about how the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act

might apply the terms of the Sonny and Cher's divorce settlement.

Let me unpack this a bit. As part of their divorce settlement, Sonny and Cher agreed that Cher would be entitled to 50% of the royalties from his compositions. So far so good. But now Sonny's widow, Mary Bono, has invoked a passage from the U. S. Copyright law that allows the heirs of an author to terminate a grant of a copyright executed before 1978. Cher has filed a lawsuit seeking to block the termination.

It's a tricky question and the resolution isn't clear. On the one hand, the Copyright Law is seemingly clear - if the grant occurred before January 1, 1978, it is "subject to termination." But on the other hand, another provision of the same law says:

"Termination of a grant under this subsection affects only those rights covered by the grant that arise under this title, and in no way affects rights arising under any other Federal, State, or foreign laws."

Sonny and Cher's divorce was governed by California, a community property state, so there is an argument that she was entitled to the 50% share as a matter of law, which would arguably trigger the provision above. But (there's always a but) the transfer in this case wasn't ordered by the court. It was a negotiated settlement, so maybe that provision doesn't apply.

There's also an argument that an assignment of royalties isn't technically a grant of a copyright, so the termination provision doesn't apply by definition. In other words, Sonny didn't technically hand over the copyright to Cher, he simply agreed to pay her whatever royalties he earned from the songs. And that makes sense in that Cher couldn't do anything with the copyright itself as she could if she'd been granted the copyright. For example, Cher can't assign the copyright to anyone, whereas she could, had Sonny assigned the copyright (as opposed to just the royalties) to her.

We'll see what happens here, but it would be nice to have some clarity. Cher and Mary

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Hamilton County Law Library

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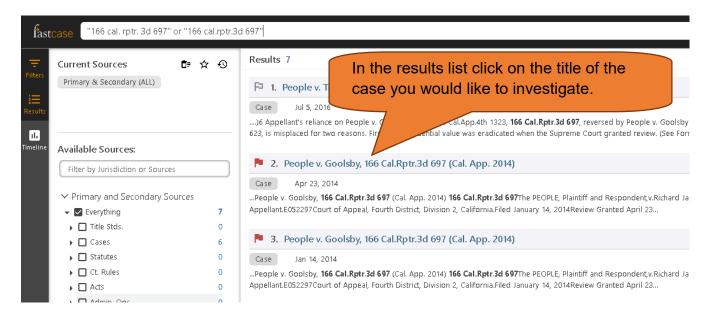
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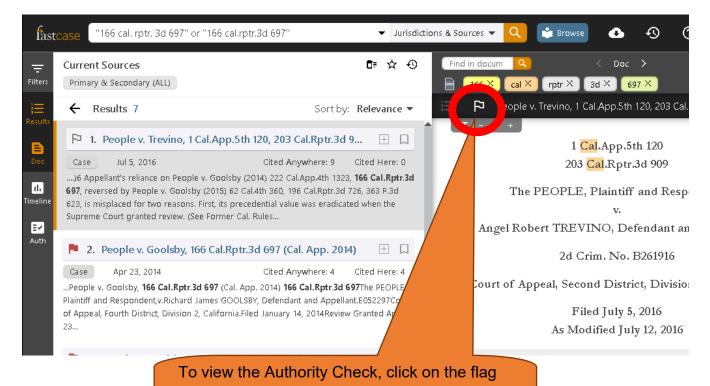
M-F 7am-4pm

Tech Tip: Fastcase Authority Check by Julie Koehne, Systems Librarian

Lean how to obtain an authority check report using Fastcase 7 by following these steps.

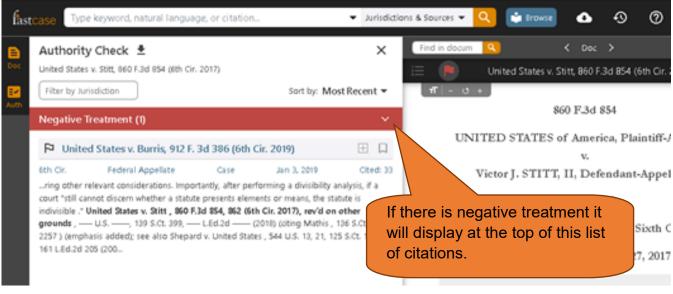
To begin, log into our website, open Fastcase from the remote access page then run a case search.



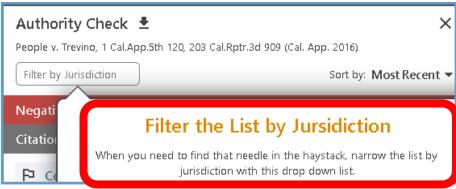


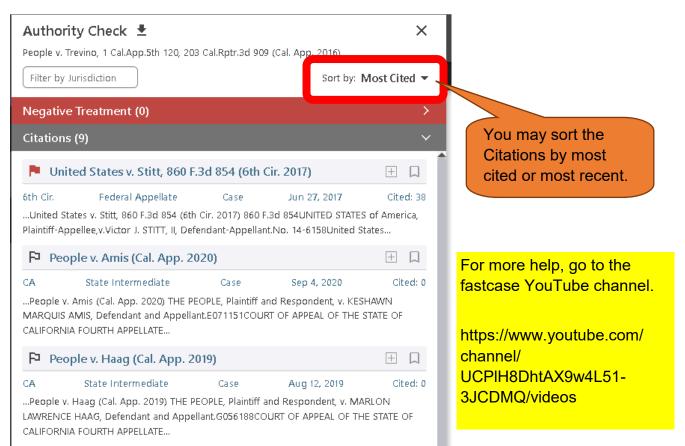
icon at the top of the case you are viewing.

Hamilton County Law Library News



Authority Check uses a sophisticated algorithm to determine the status of a case. Bad Law Bot can identify and recognize language patterns and flag a case for negative treatment.





would each like it as well no doubt.

Jack Greiner is a commercial litigator with an emphasis on communications and media law. He is one of the region's leading advocates for governmental transparency, having argued numerous cases in the Supreme Courts of Ohio and Kentucky and in appellate courts in the tri-state area. His clients have included The Cincinnati Enquirer, the Associated Press, ESPN, Vogue Magazine, Courthouse News Service, NBCUniversal, and television stations in 16 markets.





2022 Law Library Subscriptions

Thanks very much to the many subscribers who have paid for 2022 law library services. The staff and board appreciate your decision to continue as a library user. We will send statements in January as a reminder to people who haven't yet renewed. A timely payment ensures your continued access to legal information resources and services including research support, document delivery, newsletters and practice area updates, borrowing privileges, CLE programs, and more. We won't revoke privileges until March 1, so there is time. Please contact <u>Lauren</u> with any questions about your invoice or library services.

Also, keep in mind that we are able to accept credit card payments for subscriber renewals. If you haven't yet renewed and would like to pay by credit card, please email reference@cms.hamilton-co.org and we'll send you the link to our secure site to make your payment.

Westlaw AND Lexis

We have some exciting news for our subscribers! Beginning in January 2022, we will have access to both Lexis and Westlaw on-site in the Law Library. We will be continuing our Westlaw plan, providing robust access to case law, statutes, forms and treatise materials, AND we have also added patron access to Lexis+. This will provide you access to a wealth of new materials, including a wide array of treatise materials from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, case law from all 50 states and federal and unique Lexis jury verdict content. Please contact us at reference@cms.hamilton-co.org for more information!







Fastcase

We have renewed our Fastcase plan for 2022 and will continue to provide access to high-quality legal research materials via remote access to our subscribers who qualify. If you were previously a Casemaker user with the OSBA and would like more information about accessing Fastcase via our website with your Law Library subscription, please don't hesitate to contact us at reference@cms.hamilton-co.org

for more assistance. Remote access to Fastcase is limited to attorneys in solo practice, or attorneys in firms whose entire firm subscribes to the Law Library. If you are an individual attorney at a non-subscribing firm, we'd be thrilled to onboard the rest of your attorneys and get your access up and running. Just contact <u>Lauren</u> for more information.

Law Library Board Meeting

The Hamilton County Law Library Resources Board will next meet on Wednesday, January 12 at 12pm. Meetings of the Hamilton County Law Library Resources Board are open to the public. The meeting will be held in the Robert S. Kraft Boardroom in the Law Library.

Topical Updates

We are excited to announce the new design of the Topical Updates for 2021. If you have not signed up before and would like to start receiving substantive bi-weekly updates in one or more practice areas, please visit the topical updates page on our website to sign up. You can select from the following areas of law:

Criminal

Employment

Estates and Trusts

Family Law

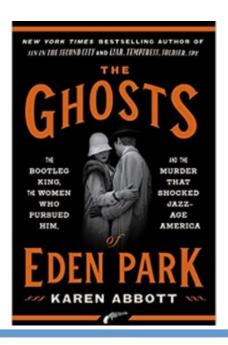
Intellectual Property

Pension Benefits

Real Estate

Tax

The Supreme Court & Con Law



CLE Speaker and Topic Ideas

We've already begun planning an exciting year of CLE for you in 2022, but there's always room for more. What topics do you hope we'll address with CLEs in 2022? Do you have a suggestion for a speaker? Be in touch with reference librarian and CLE coordinator Amy Kurlansky with your recommendations. And, sure, you can volunteer to speak!



Book Club

The Hamilton County Law Library Book Club is meeting via Zoom, at 12:00 on Friday, February 25, 2022.

This month's selection is *The Ghosts of Eden Park*, by Karen Abbott.

It is a gripping account of Cincinnati attorney George Remus, the "King of the Bootleggers."

We are very excited to be able to bring you this opportunity.

And, we look forward to seeing you on the 25th!

Sign up here.

Subscriber Benefits

All subscribers have access to the following valuable resources and services:

Circulation privileges to borrow from over 40,000 print volumes for up to six weeks at a time

Access to extensive legal information databases from the Law Library, including Lexis+, Westlaw, Wolters Kluwer Cheetah™, Overdrive e-books, HeinOnline, and Loislaw treatises

Wireless network throughout the Law Library

Polycom videoconferencing

Eight meeting rooms with speaker phones

Professional reference service by our law librarians, available via e-mail, telephone, and in person

Free document delivery by fax or e-mail of print and electronic materials

CLE seminars throughout the year, on legal research and substantive topics

Subscribers' lounge, magazines, daily newspapers, and coffee

Bi-weekly news alerts by practice area

Discounted rates for photocopying

In addition, solos and attorneys whose firm has a subscription have 24 hour remote access to Fastcase.com case law, Aspen/LOISLaw treatises, HeinOnline (for under 50 attorney firms), EBSCOhost, and Wolters Kluwer Cheetah™

CLEs on Demand

The Hamilton County Law Library is proud to announce that we are going to apply for approval for the following self study CLEs to be included in our on-demand library for the year 2022:

Elder Abuse Awareness (1.0 general hour in OH)

Medicaid Planning (1.0 general hour in OH)

Complex Appeals in Ohio (1.0 general hour in OH)

Fastcase 7 (1.0 general hour in OH)

Mediation (1.0 general hour in OH)

2020 Employment Cases in the US Supreme Court (1.0 general hour in OH)

Trademark & Copyright Law in 60 Minutes (1.0 general hour in OH)

CHANGE Court (1.0 general hour in OH)

Legal Issues & COVID-19 (1.5 general hours in OH)

What Does Stress Have to Do With it? (2.5 hours Professional Conduct in OH)

The Law of Boxing (1.0 hour in OH, and 1.0 hour in KY until June 30, 2022)

Implicit Bias & the Criminal Justice System (1.0 hour Professional Conduct in OH)

Elder Financial Exploitation & Undue Influence (1.0 general hour in OH)

Hamilton County Municipal Court Update (1.0 general hour in OH)

We Don't Know We Don't Know: Future Pandemics and Dynamic Decision Taking (1.0 general hour in OH)

Mindfulness for Professionalism and

Civility (1.0 Professional Conduct in OH)

Copyright & Music Law Resources

Law Library subscribers have access to a variety of Copyright and Music Law Resources, including those listed below. If you have questions about these resources, contact the reference staff at reference@cms.hamilton-co.org or 513.946.5300.

The complete guide to patents, copyrights, and trademarks: what you need to know explained simply

KF2979 .C65 2009

Copyright law deskbook KF2995 .C54 2009

Demystifying intellectual property: a guide for the nonspecialist

KFO330 .I544 2013

Entertainment, publishing and the arts (Lindey)

KFZ2991.5, L55

The law of public entertainments: theatres, music, and dancing, stage plays, cinematographs

KD37720 .S47 2003

Music law: how to run your band's business

KF390 .E57 S87 2009

Music Law 101

KF0330.M87 2015

The public domain: find and use free content for your website, book, app, music, video, art, and more KF3022.F575 2017

Patry on copyright KF2991.5 .P382

Principles of Copyright Law KF2994 .S34 2010

Rock 'n' roll law: music copyright law and cases through Bruce Springsteen
KF3035 .M87 2019

Online Resources

EBSCO

Copyright Handbook Getting Permission Music law The public domain

Fastcase

Trademark and Copyright Disputes: Litigation Forms and Analysis

HeinOnline

Entertainment and Sports Lawyer Hastings Communications and Entertainment Law Journal

Intellectual Property Law Bulletin

Overdrive

Principles of Copyright Law

Westlaw

American Jurisprudence Trials

American Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice

Forms Annotated

Entertainment Law 3d: Legal Concepts and

Business Practices

Lindey on Entertainment, Publishing and the

Arts, 3d

Multimedia and Technology Licensing Agreements

Wolters Kluwer Intellectual Property Law Daily

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 12 PM Library Board Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2022, Library Closed for MLK Day

Monday, February 21, 2022, Library Closed for Presidents Day

Friday, February 25, 2022, at 12 pm, HCLL Book Club Meeting, on ZOOM



January 2022 Law Library Newsletter

Copyright & Music Law Resources

Board Meeting

Tech tip: Fastcase Authority Check

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Hamilton County Law Library Hamilton County Courthouse 1000 Main Street, Room 601 Cincinnati, OH 45202